

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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THE NEW CRADLE STORY



MOTHER: "Hush-a-bye, Baby! The Dustman is coming to bring you pretty dreams."
TYPHOID SPECTRE: "Oh, no, he isn't! I've come instead. You see, they can't afford the Dustman's wages, but I do my work for nothing!"

(The Medical Correspondent of the "Times," condemning the attempts being made in some districts to cut down expenses by saving on scavenging, and so increasing the risks to child life, says—"A child's life at this hour is, one might suppose, of more value to Britain than the wages of a dustman.")

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

The outstanding political event of the week has been the apparent conversion of the Liberal majority of the Cabinet to military conscription. Parliament reassembled last Tuesday after the Christmas adjournment, and on Wednesday, after we went to press, the Prime Minister was to present the Compulsion Bill to the House. We deal in our leading article with the subject as it affects our movement. Sir John Simon has resigned the Home Secretaryship on account of the Government's adoption of the principle of conscription, thus proving what the woman's movement had given us grave cause to doubt—that it is still possible for a British Minister to resign office on a question of principle.

Other Events of the Week

On Tuesday, the Munitions of War (Amendment) Bill passed its third reading after further amendment. But the chief interest of that day's sitting was centred on the seizure in Glasgow of the current issue of *Forward*, under the Defence of the Realm Act. Liberal and Labour Members were rightly indignant over this attack on the freedom of the Press, forgetting no doubt that this same freedom had been infringed with scarcely a protest in Parliament in the case of Suffragist papers long before the Defence of the Realm Act was heard of. Another event of the week has been the publication of the names of those composing the Statutory Committee on War Pensions, among whom are four women out of a total of twenty-seven members, and of these four, two at least, the Countess Roberts and Mrs. McKenna, cannot be said to represent in any striking degree the interests of working women, with whose claims the Committee will have principally to deal.

War and Waste

The extravagance of some kinds of so-called economy is beyond dispute. Our cartoonist illustrates one of these, this week, and shows how the ill-considered action of some municipal authorities, in saving on scavenging, is laying up a store of diseases that are bred in polluted refuse, and so threatening the child life of our cities. In this connection it is worth remembering, perhaps, that at all times the arrangements for collecting refuse are more or less antiquated in London as compared with more advanced cities; and that one of the first things the women of Chicago did, on obtaining their votes (to name only one instance of this kind of legislation following on women's enfranchisement), was to clean up their city by promoting effective legislation to this end.

Spare the Rates and Spoil the Child

Another method of economy now being practised is in the schools; and we welcome the outspoken speeches made at last Friday's representative conference of teachers at Hamilton House, London, when resolutions were passed protesting against the reduction of the teaching staff or the employment of unqualified teachers until the supply of qualified teachers is known to be exhausted; insisting that there should be no curtailment of evening school work and higher education, and declaring that the present school age is too low, and should in no

case be lowered still further. A further resolution, moved by Miss J. Adams, was also passed unanimously, urging local educational authorities to see that necessitous or delicate children were in no way neglected, notwithstanding the demands consequent upon the war. The short-sighted policy of reducing the rates by starving the future generation, in whom all our hopes of reconstruction after this terrible war are centred, cannot be too strongly condemned; and the representatives of educational and other organisations that met in this way under the presidency of Mr. W. B. Steer (National Union of Teachers) to utter their well-timed and courageous warning, deserve high praise.

Child Labour and the Future

One of the speakers at the conference, Mr. A. J. Mundella, remarked on the growing tendency to employ boys in agricultural work and as porters in urban places, and said that more hooligans were being created now than ever before, owing to the children leaving school too early. We are glad to see that Sheriff-substitute Umpherston decided in favour of the local educational authority, at Kinross Sheriff Court on December 22, when a leading farmer pleaded guilty to a technical infringement in having employed a boy and girl, aged between twelve and fourteen years, but pointed out that he was obeying a Government recommendation to farmers to increase the production of food by whatever means they could employ. It is a pity that the Government, in issuing these recommendations, do not in so many words urge the farmer to offer such wages as will attract adult women's labour. Lord Selborne, whose Suffrage record should ensure his due regard for this side of the question, said at the Westminster Guildhall, last Friday, that upon the employment of women on the land would depend the success of farming in the coming year. If the women are to be adequately paid, we can but wish success to a movement that will help to stamp out child labour on the land. As we go to press, we hear of a reactionary proposal, passed by the Somerset County Council, to request the local educational committee to release boys from school for agricultural purposes *at the age of eleven!*

Boys in Munition Works

A serious aspect of boy labour was brought to light in a recent note by the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, mentioning a case before the Metropolitan Munitions Tribunal in which two boys of 14 obtained certificates of release on the plea that they were expected to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on alternate days, at the rate of 2½d. an hour. The writer of the note goes on to say that the serious problem arising out of the effect of long hours upon these boys (something like 3,000 of them are now said to be working at Woolwich) "has been engaging the attention of social workers in the East End for some time"; for—

in normal times most of these boys would be learning a trade, but they have been drawn into the Arsenal by the lure of high wages, where their work, however useful to the nation it may be, will not help them to earn their living in after life.

It is impossible to avoid the reflection that if the labour of the country had been placed on a proper economic footing in time of peace—as it might have been if women had been allowed to work out their own salvation and that of their children with the aid of political power—the coming generation would not have been drawn into the vortex of wastage involved by the war until every adult man and woman had been used up. We are glad to see that the Committee on Wage-earning Children has issued a grave warning against the further loosening of restrictions on child labour.

Realising the War

A good deal of prominence was given in the newspapers, last week, to the report of the Ministry of Munitions on munition-making in France; and special stress was laid on the statement that the Trade Unions have placed no restrictions in the way of the employment of women's labour. This the *Times* and certain other papers attribute to the fact that in France

men as well as women realise the war much more than they do here. The *Manchester Guardian* having mentioned in its summary of the report that "practically all the work is done on the piece; the same piece work prices are paid to women as to men," Miss M. L. Greg (of the Women's War Interests Committee) writes to that paper to say:—

Hence the French workman can relax his rules and welcome women's work in the national emergency without the fear of undercutting in the engineering trades after the war, which appertains where (as is the case in some of our munition works) women are being employed at 15s. to 20s. to do the same work for which men get 29s. to 45s.

As to "realising" the war, with prices rising higher every day it is not the munition workers who are likely to forget the war, even if some of them are earning higher wages than they did in time of peace.

Items of Interest

A deputy coroner is reported to have said at a recent inquest—"One thinks more acutely about the deaths of babies at the present time, when every baby's life is so important to the nation." We do not think women have required a European war to make them "think acutely" about infant mortality.

Even Scotland Yard—still obdurate where taxi-cabs are concerned (see page 119)—is yielding to the employment of women clerks in the place of enlisted men. These are the first women to hold appointments on the staff at the "Yard."

The recent opening of the Royal Dental Hospital to women is an important step in the women dentists' movement. Hitherto the National Dental Hospital (Dental Department, University College Hospital) has been the only dental hospital open to women in London.

A new figure in the world of trade is the woman carrier of bread, and in the professional world the woman Insurance Company inspector. Miss Edith Beesley, of Cape Town, who has just been appointed inspector by the Norwich Union Life Assurance Company, is the first woman, we are informed, to act in such a capacity in this country.

"Speaking more than one language, as many do . . . the members of the Women's Volunteer Reserve are ready to fill the gaps made by the war," said a representative of that organisation with regard to the shortage of taxi-cab drivers. We wonder if they can speak the taxi-cab driver's language—when he gets his exact fare and no more?

The *Westminster Gazette* remarks that it is no uncommon sight in the New Zealand Parliament to see women (who are voters, and therefore count in the eyes of that assembly) knitting for their boys at the front, while they listen to debates. No doubt, debates are worth listening to when Ministers are responsible to women in the gallery as well as to men on the floor of the House.

IMPORTANT U.S. MEETING AT BRISTOL

The Labour Party is holding its annual conference at Bristol on January 26, 27, and 28.

The United Suffragists have decided to hold a meeting on Saturday, January 27, in Kingsley Hall, Bristol, at 7.30, to insist that when the Government undertakes the alteration of the Parliamentary Register, women shall be included on equal terms with men.

The Chair will be taken by Mr. George Lansbury, and the speakers will be Mrs. Despard, Mr. Robert Smillie (President of the Miners' Federation), Miss Catherine Marshall, and Miss Evelyn Sharp.

Bristol Suffragists who are willing to help in advertising this meeting are requested to communicate with us at once. As this is a very important meeting, we are greatly in need of help—especially financial help. Members who are anxious to ensure the success of our campaign should lose no time in letting us know how much they can do, or give. Those who cannot afford the time to go to Bristol for the meeting might perhaps be able to pay the fare or expenses (or both) of someone else.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1916.

WHAT WE THINK ABOUT CONSCRIPTION

Before these words appear in print, the Government's intentions with regard to military conscription will probably have been made known, and the country will have divided on this important question. Women, like men, are not unanimous in their view of conscription. As we said, when dealing with this subject in our issue of August 27, "At a time of great national stress like the present, we try where we can to find points of contact, not of divergence, among our readers, who probably hold widely differing opinions on every subject under the sun, except that of the freedom of women." That is our attitude still. It is the only attitude, we consider, that is compatible with our position as the organ of a Society of men and women who have banded themselves together for the sole purpose of winning the vote for women.

But although Suffragists may be divided in opinion on the principle of conscription, they are unanimous in opposing compulsion—where compulsion means government without consent. And we would remind those men who are anti-conscriptionists that, supposing conscription becomes law, it will become law in a Parliament composed of their own representatives, who are responsible to their constituents for the passage of such a law and will have to answer to them for it at the next General Election, an event which cannot be long postponed. We would point out further to all anti-conscriptionists, who are men, that they, as voters, can carry on an effective and strenuous opposition to the thing they hate before it becomes law, that they may even succeed in defeating it altogether, or, at least, in forcing its submission first to the country, so that if, in the end, they have to submit to conscription, it will not mean compulsion in the constitutional sense of the word—it will be government with the consent of the governed, as far as, under our present Constitution, it is possible to obtain that consent—from the men of the country.

But what about the women? It is true that, as we have said, women may not be unanimous in their views on conscription; but it is not true that they are indifferent about it. No woman can be indifferent on a matter that involves the destiny of the lives that women bring into the world. If she believes that the horror of Prussianism abroad justifies the temporary establishment of Prussianism at home, she believes this with a passionate intensity realisable by few men, because she alone knows the real value of the flesh and blood she would consent to see conscripted. If she believes that there is no justification for forcing a man to give his own life or to take the lives of others, she will hate conscription with a hatred of which men can have no conception. Yet, feeling as she does about it, she will have to see this thing fought out without the smallest reference to her; this thing, if it is carried through, will have been perpetrated while every mother in the country looked on inarticulate. To women, con-

scription will mean compulsion, because it will be the crowning instance of government without consent.

It may be said, it is being said by many men who are anti-conscriptionists, by some who are Suffragists too and endorse all that we have said about women in this column, that the present Parliament does not represent even men; that the formation of a Coalition Cabinet by the co-option of Unionist members has destroyed party government and effective criticism by men's representatives in the House of Commons. The *Nation* says in its current issue:—

We entered on this war with three great blessings, peculiarly applicable to our effort to restore the threatened liberties of Europe. These three things were integral parts of a Constitution which every liberal nation admires and regards as a banner under which this struggle is to be carried forward to ultimate victory. They were free military service, a free Parliament, and a free Press. This week the Government has surrendered the first of these franchises, after having gravely qualified the second and the third.

We fancy that in this passage from a great organ of Liberal opinion lies our answer to the contention of those who say that, even if they are voters, conscription to them would mean government without consent, because their Government no longer represents them. Why does it not represent them? Not because it has altered its personnel, not because the exigencies of war have caused it to act to some extent as a military dictatorship—these things would make no difference to a "free" Parliament or to a "free" Press—but because, before war was dreamed of, the constituents of Parliament and the Government had allowed both to murder the liberties of the subject; because, before war was dreamed of, the men of the country, with a few splendid exceptions, had allowed the liberty of the Press to be suborned before their eyes. We have not a free Parliament or a free Press to-day, because, all through the women's fight for emancipation, the mass of the men in the country allowed the opinion of the one to be set aside by an Anti-Suffragist Cabinet, and of the other to be stifled by a small ring of Anti-Suffragist newspaper proprietors, rather than extend to their own countrywomen that freedom for which we are now said to be fighting abroad. Men to-day, always with those great exceptions whose names women will never forget, are getting the Government and Parliament and Press that they deserve, are being beaten with the rod that they laid in pickle for themselves all through the days when they allowed the claims of women to be stifled by Prussian methods in their own country. They converted government with consent into government without consent—for men—when they refused to convert government without consent into government with consent—for women.

We recall these painful episodes of the past in no spirit of rancour. Our one object in doing so is to show the country, which is dear to us all, that there is a way out of the present unrest. It is impossible to deny that the threat of military conscription, at this stage of the war, has, rightly or wrongly, shaken the confidence of large masses of the people in those who are ostensibly leading them in a war against Prussianism abroad. That confidence could, we believe, be restored if the Government were to give some sign that it is not so Prussian as it is painted, that it stands for freedom at home as well as abroad. Before it contemplates conscripting the sons of women, let it enfranchise, or at the very least give a pledge to enfranchise, the mothers of men. By no subtlety of reasoning can it be maintained that votes for women represent a more contentious subject for legislation than conscription for men. There is only one way in which conscription can be construed as government by consent, and that is by its adoption by a free country and a free Parliament. There is only one way to secure a free country and a free Parliament, and that is by the enfranchisement of women as well as of men.

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

From the Crimean War to the World War of To-Day

BY E. PICTON-TURBERVILL

This is going to be a very dull article, simply a record of facts, what has been done, what is being done by one organisation. It has been said that it required a war to make the nation discover the Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. Certainly, before the war, nine people out of ten would have had a very vague idea as to what the Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. existed for and what they did. Now, everyone knows; at least, everyone knows what the Y.M. is achieving; the Y.W. is less known, possibly because it is more modest!

For Florence Nightingale's Nurses

It certainly had a very modest beginning. Born in a time of strain and of stress—in such days as these—it sprang from an effort made by a few women to provide a comfortable hostel for Florence Nightingale's nurses returning from the Crimean War. The stress of those days, however, was not due to the war only; women were beginning to enter the labour world, the girl was beginning to realise that she as well as her brother had to enter in a fuller way the battle of life. The thought was more or less new; conditions for girls were extraordinarily hard; they were going in large numbers into the industrial cities. The Y.W.C.A. was, I think I am right in saying, the first large organised body of women that came into being solely for the welfare of women.

Two Scenes

Here are two scenes:—

A small drawing-room in Mayfair in the early fifties. Two women sitting and earnestly discussing modern problems, no doubt somewhat appalled at the turn things are taking, the freedom of women, &c. They do not, however, belong to that section of society that always deplores modern conditions with no thought of a constructive policy. Many things are discussed, schemes laid; and before they separate these two women quite simply and quite naturally kneel to ask for wisdom and guidance in the work before them. This is the genesis of the Y.W.C.A.

The second scene. Stockholm; Time—June, 1914, six weeks before the outbreak of the war. From all parts of the world women are gathered together; representatives from nearly every country in Europe are there. The Colonies are represented, far-away Australia, New Zealand, Canada; a deputation of remarkable women from America take part in the Conference; and from India and the Far East women have also come to bring their contribution in thought to this world-wide Association.

The two scenes have a close connection; for the second is the outcome of the first, and it is literally true that there is hardly a large port throughout the world that has not its Y.W.C.A. The first practical work of the Association was to provide homes and hostels for the wage-earning girl. It is difficult in these days to find decent accommodation at a low price, and years ago it was almost impossible. Throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain and Ire-

land the Association has now a very large number of such homes, thirty-five in London alone; and, without wishing to sentimentalise, it is impossible to over-estimate what these homes have meant to many and many a lonely wage-earning girl, struggling against the difficulties and temptations of life.

The Practical Work of the Y.W.C.A.

There are eight departments in the Association. The Foreign Department chooses trains and sends workers to India, Africa, and the Far East. These countries, unlike Canada, Australia, and other lands, depend on the British organisation for workers. The present writer spent six years in India, and had some small share in establishing the work in many of the cities of that Empire. The Social Service Department attends to employment and emigration, as well as to homes and hostels and all social and industrial questions. The Training Department has care of the training centre in Hampstead, and sees to the allocation of workers. In so large a work as this, it is necessary often to meet in conference and also to provide healthy holidays for the members; for this purpose there is a Camp and Conference Department, which plans and arranges for these. Publication forms a department in itself; and finally, there is the Religious Activities Department, a title which few people like,

though no other could be thought of. This department arranges for special mission services for girls throughout the country; for, in the midst of all the many other activities, and transcending all, it is not forgotten that true Christianity means entering that Life which Paul so mystically and so beautifully describes as "the Life that is life indeed."

War Work

As war conditions prevail just now, naturally much of the work now being done by the Y.W.C.A. is in connection with war work. Patriotic clubs and canteens for women munition workers have been a feature of the past year. At Erith is one of our largest canteens, and it is a sight to see the workers in their blue overalls pour in by hundreds at the dinner-hour. At Crayford, Edmonton, and many other places, the Association has its rest rooms and canteen for women munition workers.

It is hardly realised yet how much munition and war material is now being turned out by women; in some factories there are three women to one man. The Association has always sought, and will ever work for the welfare of women. This is but a brief sketch; a visit to 26, George Street, Hanover Square, the headquarters, will perhaps give a far better impression of the work than it has been possible to do in this brief article.

MRS. JUBBLEJOY'S JOB

By G. Colmore

Mrs. Jubblejoy is an "Anti." She doesn't call herself one, for anti's are not just now on the crest of the wave; she calls herself a patriot. She is one of those patriots who, childless, would certainly, if they had had sons, have sent them to the Front, and when other women's boys are killed, she asks them if they are not proud that their sons have died for their country. She hob-nobs with middle-aged gentlemen who wish, by Jove! that they were half-a-dozen years younger; and when she recruits, she begins by asking the men she would persuade if they are cowards. Her job, she tells herself—and others, is to strengthen the spirit of patriotism.

The other day Mrs. Jubblejoy went to see a soldier's wife who had had no news of her husband for several weeks. The woman was a bit depressed, so Mrs. Jubblejoy began to rally her in her breezy way.

"You must cheer up, my good woman," she said; "you must cheer up."

"Cheer!" said the woman. "Before 'e went it was charin', an' now it's cheerin', an' I dunno as the one ain't harder than t'other."

"The country must come first," said Mrs. Jubblejoy; "and I'm sure you don't grudge your husband to its service."

"I dunno about grudgin', but I wishes 'e was 'ome."

"If my husband had lived," Mrs. Jubblejoy went on—"he died, alas! when we had been married but a short time—"

"Pore feller!" said the soldier's wife.

"Though I nursed him with my own hands."

"Pore feller!"

"But if he had been alive I would have insisted upon his going to the Front."

"Pore feller!"

"You should be proud that your husband is doing his duty."

"He always done it; there ain't nothing particular in *that* to be proud about."

"Yes, yes; but now, you see—his country, and all that—it is *your* duty to bear your lot cheerfully. Cheerfully and not beerfully," said Mrs. Jubblejoy, who never lost an opportunity of inculcating temperance, and who had invented a phrase which to her mind represented the epitome of the virtues.

A gleam came into the eye of the soldier's wife, whether of humour or defiance Mrs. Jubblejoy could not judge; discrimination was not her strong point. But she saw a light where there had been no light, and said to herself in triumph that she had roused the poor creature at last. She had.

"Only time I feels I can do my dooty cheerfully," said the soldier's wife slowly, "is when I've 'ad a glass—two glasses, an' it's beginnin' to get into me 'ead."

"My—my—good—you don't mean to tell me," stammered Mrs. Jubblejoy, "that you *drink*?"

"What I means to tell you is as I know where me own shoe pinches, an' you don't. Else," said the soldier's wife, "I give you that much credit as to believe you wouldn't keep on takin' a 'and in the pinchin'."

"My—good—woman! Do you mean to be insolent?"

"No more'n you do," said the soldier's wife.

What Mrs. Jubblejoy said afterwards was that it was no good trying to improve the people. What the soldier's wife said was: "I got rid of 'er, any'ow."

NEW BOOKS

A VALUABLE YEAR BOOK*

The "Labour Year Book," which has just appeared for the first time, is a really useful addition to any library. It is more than useful; it is interesting as well, for besides being an admirable book of reference on most matters of interest to the social reformer, it contains special articles on various subjects which are well worth reading in themselves, though some of them raise controversial points with which all our readers will probably not find themselves in agreement. Mr. Bernard Shaw asks characteristically, "Why a Labour Year Book?"; Mr. Robert Smillie writes on "The Triple Industrial Alliance," Miss Margaret Bondfield on "The Future of Women in Industry," Miss Catherine Marshall on "The Future of Women in Politics," and so on. The sections dealing with "Labour and the War," and "The International Working Class Movement," are not the least interesting in the book.

THE OTHER WAY ROUND†

Mr. Archibald Marshall has written some interesting novels which we have reviewed from time to time in these columns. His latest book, "Upsidonia," though a clever comment on modern life, just misses being successful. As its name implies, it deals with an imaginary country in which ordinary standards and ordinary customs are reversed, where it is considered a disgrace to be rich, and a punishment to be forced to live in luxury. Waiters press tips upon those whom they serve, and the fast set of the aristocracy are, in Upsidonia, the "dirty set," those who carry poverty to an extreme and do not wash or change their clothes. It can be seen that the idea lends itself to many developments, and the book will interest those who care for the "Erewhon" type of fiction. "Upsidonia" is not profound, of course, like "Erewhon"—it aims at being light comedy rather than satire, and this, probably, is why it fails to hold us to the end.

"BECAUSE OF PHOEBE"§

Everything that Miss Kate Horn writes will show originality, and "Because of Phoebe" is no exception to this rule. Anne Desmond, the feckless and human mother of an exemplary and rather inhuman daughter, is so well drawn that at moments she annoys us almost as much as she annoys her daughter, and we can quite understand how Phoebe is driven by such a mother to the extreme of punctiliousness. No one in the book is quite usual, except, perhaps, the slow-going old Major who becomes Anne's second husband; and we fancy that he strikes us as true to life mainly because he is more like a character in a book than any of the others. But with all its cleverness and all its observation, "Because of Phoebe" does not interest us deeply, partly because there is nobody in it who matters very much, and partly because the plot is almost non-existent. Remembering former books by the same author, we still have hopes that Miss Horn will give us a real book some day, with a broad outlook upon life.

A NEW WOMAN'S PAPER

We are glad to welcome *The Woman Worker*, a monthly paper, edited by Mary Macarthur and Susan Lawrence, for Women Trade Unionists. It should prove of particular value to Suffrage speakers who wish to deal with the industrial side of the movement.

The first number contains, among other things, an excellent article on Women in Munition Work, an account of the recent Rent Strike in Glasgow, and some very valuable notes on Trade Boards.

The demand for a minimum wage and a

* "The Labour Year Book, 1916." Issued from 1, Victoria Street, S.W. Price 2s. 6d. net (cloth); and 1s. net (card cover).

† "Upsidonia." By Archibald Marshall. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. Price 6s.)

§ "Because of Phoebe." By Kate Horn. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. Price 6s.)

man's pay for a man's work is incessantly made, but we are surprised to see that no mention whatever is made of Women's Suffrage. This is greatly to be regretted, as the whole history of Trade Unionism goes to prove that a Trade Union with no direct political power is in a comparatively weak position.

This might have been made clear in an otherwise good article by Isabel Sloan, from which we quote as follows:—

Trades Boards are very splendid, because they compel employers to organise their works properly—regulate hours, and will gradually lessen the evil of competition, but Trades Boards do not go far enough to reach the root of the evil. *The workers should demand, with no uncertain voice, a national minimum for Sweated Trades, below which no employer should be allowed to run an industry.*

(The italics are ours.) But the voice of voteless women is, unhappily, a very uncertain one.

The paper is published by the National Labour Press (one penny monthly).

"PROBLEMS FOR SPEAKERS"*

Mrs. Gell's little handbook is intended primarily for Church speakers, but it contains many hints and warnings that are applicable to public speakers of any kind. This is specially true of the section called "Practical Hints"; the chapter on "The Problem of Effectiveness" is also worth reading. The ideal book on public speaking still remains to be written, perhaps because, when all is said and done, the great speaker is not made but born. But there is a place on every platform for the effective speaker who yet misses being great; and to such as these Mrs. Gell's book will be of considerable help.

WOMEN DOCTORS AND NURSES IN SERBIA

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, who is well known to readers of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*, has just returned from the Balkans, where she has been in charge of a field hospital under the Serbian Government.

In April, when the typhus epidemic was at its worst, Mrs. Stobart went out to Kragujevatz with a hospital unit. In addition to her military hospital, Mrs. Stobart undertook to give medicine and medical advice free to the civilian population, who were suffering severely from typhus. She herself contracted the disease. When the Austro-German advance began, Mrs. Stobart had to retreat at the head of her unit with the Serbian Army. For weeks they continued their retreat under the most terrible conditions. For three days and nights there was no water to be had except snow, which was melted, and there was great difficulty in getting food. Many of the horses died from hunger and exhaustion.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart has been presented by the Serbian Government with the Order of St. Sava.

Why not the Royal Red Cross?

Is it too much to hope that the English Government will be equally ready to recognise the services of the women who have endured such terrible privations while serving their country?

We notice, too, with satisfaction, that the new Order, the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross, has already been conferred upon Miss Margaret Clothilde Macdonald, Matron-in-Chief, Canadian Nursing Service. Another opportunity for recognising similarly the splendid services of women nurses seems to offer itself in the case of those who have come through the recent Serbian campaign with such distinction.

EDUCATION FOR WOMEN IN INDIA

A little while ago we published an account of a woman's deputation to Mr. Austen Chamberlain on the subject of women's education in India. The following extracts are taken from a leading article in *New India* (Madras), the organ of advanced Indian thought, which is edited by Mrs. Annie

* "Problems for Speakers." By the Honble. Mrs. Gell. (London: Wells, Gardner, Darton and Co. Price 1s. net.)

Besant:—"Everywhere the cry from the best Indian men is for better education for their daughters, for their sisters, for their wives. From all quarters comes the cry that the men wish the women to understand the new horizons that are opening out before young India, and they are eager that the new generation of women shall comprehensively work side by side with them in all that is best for the Mother Country. Look around and see how Girls' Schools are rising everywhere and are filling, if you still doubt this.

"And the women of India are showing themselves ready and able to respond to the call; and, wherever circumstances have made it possible, they have shown the fruits of education in increased capacity to deal calmly with the petty details of daily life, and in a broad grasp of the National tendency of this age that lifts them above the mistakes of grasping too quickly at that shadow of foreign fashions. They do not mistake, as did many men, foreign customs *per se* for that reality of wider liberty of thought and action, which ever wells up from the secret, sacred sources of India herself, and ensures her growth as a Nation, which shall represent the best of all that earth can present in sacrifice at this point of evolution. India at her best is what our womanhood represents her to be, and the hearth-fire that they guard to-day is the same Holy Flame guarded through the ages by the women—call them vestal virgins, true Devadasis—or even by far older names still. To the hearth-fire turns the heart of man, and where the hearth-fire is kept free from contamination, no Nation can be termed a conquered one."

CORRESPONDENCE

"Chivalry"

To the Editors of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

Dear Editors,—As your reviewer this week takes exception to certain sins of omission and commission in my pamphlet, "Christian Chivalry," perhaps you will allow me a few words of extenuation. (1) As to my quotation of Rudyard Kipling. As far as I can see, the quotation of the whole verse would not have given an opposite meaning, but rather no meaning at all. The quarrel of a swashbuckling Indian chief and a masterful English officer had nothing to do with my subject, whereas except just in that one case where "two strong men stand face to face," everything that Kipling has written goes to show the difficulty of a common understanding between East and West, and, much though he loves India, never fails to voice the superiority of the Anglo-Saxon, so that I feel I had a legitimate right to take these two opening lines as the keynote of my essay. (2) My omission of all reference to the Samurai. It was not my aim to write a treatise on Chivalry, but to analyse Christian (i.e., Western) chivalry and its relation to women, and as Japanese chivalry never touched Christianity or moulded Western thought in any way, I saw no reason to mention it. If, unlike ours, it had applied to women as well as to men, the omission would be inexcusable. But does it? Ask the women coal-heavers of Nagasaki. (3) That my distinction between East and West is "too sweeping." Anything in the nature of an outline must necessarily fall short of microscopic exactitude. I expressly stated at the outset that there were exceptions in plenty to my rule. But exceptions do not invalidate a rule, and broadly, and in a bird's-eye perspective, I maintain that the distinction is abundantly justified. That the East is not entirely Mohammedan is perfectly true, but the Mohammedan element preponderates over the widest area, and is most typical of all that we understand as the antithesis of Western civilisation. As for the numerous tribes in the East and elsewhere who, amid prevailing subjection, stand out as oases of women's comparative independence, it will be generally found that they are also monogamous, and their monogamy (I was going to say the result of, but I suppose I had better be careful) co-existent with life under harder circumstances, in the hills or deserts away from the fertile places, so that my main distinction is, as I suggested, strengthened by these very exceptions. They are bits of the West amid the East. After all, what the expert has only sketched in a couple of hundred pages can hardly be treated exhaustively in eighteen, and there is always the danger of too much discursiveness side-tracking the main object, which in my case was to spur my fellow men to a recognition of the fact that they are on the wrong road as Englishmen, and to induce them to play the game honestly where women are concerned, so that the Anglo-Saxon race may evolve true to its own higher type.—Yours faithfully,

J. BEANLAND.

December 26.

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Assault on a Girl of Nine

The *Pioneer* (December 17) reports case of a driver in the R.F.A. charged at Woolwich Police Court before Mr. Halkett with assaulting a girl of 9, and also with kicking the policeman who arrested him. There were several previous convictions for indecent assaults, and also for military offences.

Sentence: *Eight months' hard labour* (six months' for the first offence and two months' for the second).

Damaging Person and Property

The *People* (December 12) reports case of a soldier charged with violently assaulting a shoemaker, his wife (whom he struck on the head with a piece of wood), and a sewing machine. The woman was found standing in a pool of blood which was flowing from her head.

Sentence: *Fined 10s. for each assault on the persons, and 10s. for damage to the machine.*

Cruelty to a Horse

The *Morning Advertiser* (December 2) reports case of a carman summoned at West Ham Police Court for cruelty to a horse, by whipping it severely and pulling the reins while he had the brake of the van jammed on hard.

Sentence: *Fined 20s. or 13 days.*

HEAVY SENTENCES

Embezzlement

The *Morning Advertiser* (December 10) reports case of a private charged before Mr. Wallace, K.C., at the London Sessions, with embezzling the sums of £1 2s. 2d. and 7s. 8d. There were six previous convictions against him, and he had enlisted to evade arrest.

Sentence: *Eighteen months' hard labour.*

Stealing 5s.

The *Morning Advertiser* (November 29) reports case of a barman charged at Woolwich Police Court before Mr. Halkett with stealing 5s. from the licensee. He was suspected of stealing further money from the till, and there was a previous conviction.

Sentence: *Three months' hard labour.*

Stealing the Morning Milk

The *Morning Advertiser* (December 31) reports case of a packer charged at Lambeth Police Court before Mr. Biron with stealing milk from the doorways of three houses.

Sentence: *Six weeks' hard labour.*

about the domestic servant in a house where no man servant is kept? When she is not carrying luggage about, or dealing with heavy furniture, she is probably conveying coals from the bottom of the house to the top. No doubt, if domestic service were greatly sought after by men, steps would be promptly taken by somebody to prove its unfitness for the female organism—and with far more reason than in the case of motor driving!

A SUFFRAGIST PREACHER

Preaching at Stamford Street Chapel, Blackfriars, at a service organised by the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, the Rev. W. J. Piggott said that we were now paying a heavy price for our sex prejudice through which, in the Reformation, we closed the schools to women; and an even greater price since the industrial revolution in refusing the principle of equal wage for equal work, irrespective of sex. No one had justice done while womanhood was wronged. No man was free whose mother or sister was enslaved. Everywhere a double standard of morality had betrayed us to sin and weakness, to disease and shame.

WOMEN'S EMERGENCY CORPS

First Annual Report

The first annual report of the Women's Emergency Corps has just been issued, and gives a very good idea of the different branches of work now being carried on from their headquarters at 15, York Place, Baker Street, W. The Voluntary Work includes social relief, nursing, interpreting, French canteens, motor driving; and the Paid Work section consists of the following sub-sections—Labour Exchange, workrooms, knitting, toys, women on the land. Read in conjunction with the interim report published by the Corps at the end of their first six months' work, this annual report forms a very interesting summary of the work done by thousands of women to relieve the distress and solve some of the problems resulting from the war.

COMING EVENTS

Miss Maude Royden will lecture on "Dostoevski, the Russian Shakespeare," at the Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, on Thursday, January 13, at 7.30 p.m. Admission free. Reserved tickets, 1s., can be obtained from the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, W.C.

Mdlle. Marie A. Czaplicka will deliver a lantern lecture on "Poland, Past and Present," at the Ashburton Club, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C., on Monday, January 24, at 7 p.m.

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

27, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.1 Telephone 5880 Holborn.
Colours: Purple, White, and Orange.

OBJECT:—To secure a Government measure to give women the Vote on equal terms with men.

Membership Card

The United Suffragists:

- (1) Believe that men and women can usefully co-operate on equal terms in one organisation for the enfranchisement of women.
- (2) Regard Woman Suffrage as the foremost political issue of the day, and will work without considering the interests of any political party.
- (3) Recognise various forms of suffrage activity as of value, and are ready to contribute any kind of service according to their capacity and conviction.

There is no fixed subscription or entrance fee, but members are relied upon to support the Society to the best of their ability.

Membership is open to everyone who endorses the object of this Society, irrespective of membership of any other Society, militant or non-militant.

I wish to join the United Suffragists, whose object I approve.

Name (Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Please write clearly.

Address

Fill in the above Form and post it to—

Hon. Sec., United Suffragists, 27, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

Chair: Mrs. Despard. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., can be obtained from the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a public meeting at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, January 26, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free.

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting in the Kingsley Hall, Bristol, on Friday, January 28, at 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mr. Robert Smillie, Miss Catherine Marshall, and Miss Evelyn Sharp. Chair: Mr. George Lansbury. Admission free.

WAR INTERCESSION

The monthly War Time Intercession Service, arranged by the Church League for Women's Suffrage, will take place to-morrow (Saturday, January 8) in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, at 3 o'clock. The preacher will be the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Lichfield.

WAR-TIME ECONOMY

The present day and its call for economy demands great discrimination in the choice of one's clothes, and it is well to be able to obtain bargains which are good in quality as well as low in price. Messrs. Debenhams and Freebody's stocktaking sale offers exceptional bargains in all departments, including costumes, blouses, robes, millinery, and furs. Debenhams and Freebody is a name which appears regularly in the advertisement columns of VOTES FOR WOMEN, and our readers would be helping both our cause and themselves by sending to Wigmore Street for the charmingly illustrated catalogue, which should prove an exceedingly useful guide to the various departments. Substantial reductions are shown in most cases, and among the many attractive items are the neat costumes of velour cloths, and friezes, designed especially for girls, and ranging from 21s. 9d. to 29s. 6d.

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WHY NOT TRY JUSTICE?

"You really ought to be able to manage your own wife. I can only advise you to rule your wife. Every man ought to rule his wife by kindness."

Mr. Fordham is reported to have thus addressed a man who applied to him at West London Police Court for advice with regard to his wife, whom he said he could not "manage." We are sure the magistrate meant well. "To rule by kindness" is the epitome of the conventional chivalrous man's attitude towards his wife. It takes a Suffragist to understand that there can be no ruling of one by the other in the right sort of marriage, or in any other relation between men and women. As for kindness—that is better than unkindness in the home; but why not advise justice all round for a change?

THE TAXICAB MUDDLE

While in most fields of labour necessity is breaking down prejudice and many women are being employed in the place of men who have enlisted, in the London taxi-cab service the old, old arguments still prevail, and permission cannot be obtained for the replacement of the men drivers by women. This will not unduly surprise our readers when we add that, in London, the Home Office exercises the right, through Scotland Yard, of licensing taxi-cab drivers; for women have long learnt that progress in their direction is not likely to be made by a Government department. So, although in several towns about England women are driving motor cabs with complete success, London still lags behind because the Government (apparently) thinks motor driving an unwomanly occupation. The result is that the public is inconvenienced to a serious extent; for a taxi-cab is not by any means always a luxury, it is sometimes a necessity, a matter even of life and death. Yet the shortage of cabs in the streets increases daily, and as many as 1,600 are lying idle, it is said, in one yard alone.

The Familiar Objections

It is well known that a supply of trained and capable chauffeurs is available—of women who are used to driving their own cars and doing their own running repairs. Yet, sooner than

make use of them, Scotland Yard prefers to disinter the stale "anti" arguments of yester-year, and it solemnly maintains, according to the newspapers, that women cannot handle luggage, and would be exposed to unpleasant experiences at night.

We understand that the cab-owners are meeting these objections by offering to label the women's cabs "No luggage," and forbidding women's cabs to be out later than 8 p.m. But we are not concerned here with attempts to evade the ancient prejudices of Scotland Yard and the Home Office. We wish rather to point out the effrontery of the official suggestion that women who do not drive taxicabs are immune from lifting luggage or other heavy weights, and from "unpleasant experiences at night." Scotland Yard should know better than anyone else that a man in this country is not punishable by law for soliciting; yet we do not hear of any attempted legislation to keep all men off the streets after 8 o'clock because of the peril some men present to respectable women. And, as one manager of a cab company has already pointed out very sensibly, the danger to a woman driver from a disorderly fare is far less than the danger to a woman fare from a disorderly driver! Lastly, as long as young girls are being urged to work on night shifts at munition work, and have to go to and fro at all hours, it is rank hypocrisy to talk of protecting women from "unpleasantness" by closing to them a lucrative trade which is only partly plied by night.

What about Domestic Servants?

As for the handling of luggage, what

VOTES FOR WOMEN

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertion, 24 words or less, 1s. 6d., 1d. per word for every additional word (four insertions for the price of three).

All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday morning. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

LANTERN LECTURE on "Poland; Past and Present," by Mdlle. Marie A. Czaplicka, at the Ashburton Club, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C., Monday, January 24, at 7 p.m. Chairman: Mrs. Despard. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., from the Women's Freedom League offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

MISS A. MAUDE ROYDEN will lecture on "Dostoevski, the Russian Shakespeare," at Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand; Thursday, January 13, at 7.30 p.m. Admission free, reserved seats 1s., from International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold a public meeting every Wednesday afternoon at Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3.30 p.m. Speakers, January 26: Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free.

BOARD RESIDENCE, Etc.

ABSOLUTE Privacy, Quietude, and Refinement, no extras. At the Strand Imperial Hotel, opposite Gaiety Theatre, ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters; sumptuous bedroom, with h. and c. water fitted; breakfast, bath, attendance, and lights, from 5s. 6d.; en pension 9s.; special terms for long stay; finest English provisions.—Managersess, 4788 Gerrard.

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TO LET, comfortably furnished, large bed-sitting room in country rectory, beautifully situated on S.W. slope of Hog's Back; 1½ miles station; Suffragette and vegetarian would find congenial companionship; 10s. weekly; meals, if desired, by arrangement.—Write Mrs. Richmond, Puttenham, Guildford.

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UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

WILL HOLD A

PUBLIC MEETING

IN THE

KINGSLEY HALL, BRISTOL,

ON

FRIDAY, JAN. 28, at 7.30 p.m.

(At the close of the Labour Party Conference)

To Demand the Inclusion of Women when the Government frames its Bill to reform the Parliamentary Register

SPEAKERS:

MR. GEORGE LANSBURY (CHAIR)

MRS. DESPARD

MR. ROBERT SMILLIE

(President of the Miners' Federation)

MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL

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